IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

enabling a standard notification rule to generate a first notification upon an

occurrence of a predetermined event to a first person in a hierarchy; and

enabling an advanced notification rule to preempt the standard notification rule by

suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such

that the first notification is not generated.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

generating a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy based on the

advanced notification rule.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Canceled)

6.   (Canceled)

7.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification

rule includes a scope and wherein the scope of the advanced notification rule is

configured by at least one of the group consisting of a company, a satellite, a host

assigned to a company, a service configured on a host for a company, a check

type, a host state, a service state, a contact group, and a message pattern.

8.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 where the advanced notification rule is configured to preempt the standard notification rule for a temporary amount of time.

9.   (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following:

        enabling a standard notification rule to generate a first notification upon an occurrence of a predetermined event to a first person in a hierarchy; and

        enabling an advanced notification rule to preempt the standard notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated.

10.   (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 9 further comprising: generating a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled).

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the advanced notification rule includes a scope where the scope of the advanced

notification rule configured by at least one of the group consisting of a company, a satellite, a host assigned to a company, a service configured on a host for a company, a check type, a host state, a service state, a contact group, and a message pattern.

16.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 9, wherein the advanced notification rule is configured to preempt the standard notification rule for a temporary amount of time.

17.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
means for enabling a standard notification rule to generate a first notification upon an occurrence of a predetermined event to a first person in a hierarchy; and means for enabling an advanced notification rule to preempt the standard notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated.

18.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising:
means for generating a second notification to a second person in the hierarchy.

19.   (Canceled)

20.   (Canceled)

21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Canceled)

23.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the advanced

notification rule includes a scope and wherein the scope of the advanced

notification rule is configured by at least one of the group consisting of a

company, a satellite, a host assigned to a company, a service configured on a host

for a company, a check type, a host state, a service state, a contact group, and a

message pattern.

24.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17 where the advanced

notification rule is configured to preempt the standard notification rule for a

temporary amount of time.

25.   (Currently Amended) An digital processing system, comprising:

a processor configured to enable a standard notification rule to generate a first

notification upon an occurrence of a predetermined event to a first person in a

hierarchy, and to enable an advanced notification rule to preempt the standard

notification rule by suspending the first notification from being generated upon

the occurrence such that the first notification is not generated; and

a communications device coupled to the processor to transmit the notifications.

26.   (Previously Presented) The digital processing system of claim 25 wherein the

communications device is configured to transmit the second notification to a

second person in the hierarchy based on the advanced notification rule.

27.   (Canceled)

28.   (Canceled)

29.   (Original) The digital processing system of claim 25 where the communications device transmits the first notification to the first person in the hierarchy and the processor acknowledges the first notification.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule comprises a redirect standard notification.

31.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the redirect standard notification redirects the first notification to a second person.

32.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule comprises a supplemental notification.

33.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32, where the supplemental notification directs the first notification to a second person in addition to the first notification to the first person.

34.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule comprises a suspend standard notification.

35.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the suspend notification, upon satisfaction of the standard notification rule, suspends the standard notification rule.

36.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule comprises an automatic acknowledgement.

37.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the automatic acknowledgement automatically acknowledges receipt of the standard notification by the first person.

38.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising preventing escalation of the first notification using the automatic acknowledgment.

39.   (Previously Presented) The machine readable medium of claim 1, wherein the advanced notification rule comprises one of a redirect standard notification, a supplemental notification, a suspend standard notification, or an automatic acknowledgement.

40.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the advanced notification rule comprises one of a redirect standard notification, a supplemental notification, a suspend standard notification, or an automatic acknowledgement.